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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,393	06/30/2003	Kevin Lo	200311912-1	1507
22879 7590 12/28/2007 HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400			EXAMINER HSIEH, SHIH WEN	
			ART UNIT 2861	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 12/28/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

JERRY.SHORMA@HP.COM
mkraft@hp.com
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EF

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/611,393	LO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	shih-wen hsieh	2861	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-41,43 and 44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 4-40 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,41 and 44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 43 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on Sept. 28, 2007 has been entered.

Terminal Disclaimer

2. The terminal disclaimer filed on May 14, 2007 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US 6,860,583 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 3, 41 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alonso et al. (US Pat. No. 4,024,548).

In regard to:

Claim 1:

Alonso et al. teach:

An ink over-spray containment apparatus, comprising:

a first member having a first fluidic transport coefficient and a first ink affinity;

a second member coupled to said first member, said second member having a second fluidic transport coefficient lesser than said first fluidic transport coefficient and a second ink affinity greater than said first ink affinity, refer to col. 2, lines 34-41 and col. 3, lines 6-24;

wherein said first member comprises porous plastic, refer to col. 3, line 6-7.

Claim 3:

Alonso et al. further teach:

wherein said second member comprises needle felt, refer to col. 3, lines 25-32.

Claim 41:

Alonso et al. still further teach:

An ink over-spray containment system, comprising:

ink transport means for transporting ink away from a sprayed surface having an ink affinity and a fluidic transport coefficient;

ink containment means for containing said ink, said ink containment means having greater ink affinity and lesser fluidic transport characteristics than said ink transport means, refer to col. 2, lines 34-41 and col. 3, lines 6-24; and

a compressed member (17 and 20, fig. 1) coupled to said ink transport means or said ink containment means for actively applying a force to said ink transport means and said ink containment means to increase a contact surface area between said ink transport means and said ink containment means, refer to col. 2, lines 34-47. Note: since the absorbers are confined within the flanges, such confinement would exert a force to the absorbers to increase a contact area between those two means (absorbers).

Claim 44:

wherein a platen (17, fig. 1) containing said first and second members is further configured to channel ink from flank portions of said first member to said second member, refer to col. 2, lines 34-47. Note: since ink is transferred from the first absorber which is closer to the printing medium (10) to the second absorber, some of the absorbed ink by the first absorber is certainly being transferred around the flange portions of the support. Wherein said flange portions of the support is the flank portions of the absorbers, since the flanges are the boundaries of the absorbers.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4-40 are allowed.

6. Claim 43 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In regard to:

Claims 29-31:

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 29-31 is the inclusion of the limitation of disposing said first and second members within said platen to contain a seepage of said ink from said first and second members. It is this limitation found in each of the claims as they are claimed in the combination, which has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record that makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

Claim 36:

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 36 is the inclusion of the limitation of providing a platen that supports print media moving through a printing device, contains said first and second members and contains any ink that may escape from either the first or second member. It is this limitation found in this claim as it is claimed in the combination, which has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record that makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

Claim 43:

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 43 is the inclusion of the limitation of further comprising means for sealingly supporting said ink transport means, said ink containment means, and said compression means. It is this limitation found in this claim as it is claimed in the combination, which has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record that makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 41 and 44 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Reference 4,024,548 "Liquid absorbing assembly with two porosities" issued to Alonso et al. has been used in this office action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to shih-wen hsieh whose telephone number is 571-272-2256. The examiner can normally be reached on 9/5.

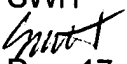
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Luu can be reached on 571-272-7663. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

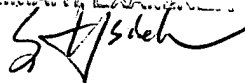
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SWH

Dec. 17, 2007

SHIH-WEN HSIEH
PRIMARY EXAMINER


10/611,393

